

## HISTORY OF JAMES MURDOCH 1814-1884

James Murdoch was the third child of eight children born to James and Mary Murray Murdoch. His date of birth is 29 July 1814 in Gaswater, Ayrshire, Scotland. He no doubt was named after his father and grandfather being the first son in the family. He was 17 years old when his father lost his life on October 20, 1831 in a mine pit trying to rescue a young man who had gone down it and was over come with foul gas. James now had two younger sisters and two younger brothers to assist his mother (Wee Granny) in caring for he being the oldest son he became man of the family now. He had probably all ready been working for some years by now to earn his own keep and assist the family in the meagre times they lived in.

John Murray Murdoch in his own history mentions James helping them to build a cottage for Mary Murr-ray Murdoch (Wee Granny) and the rest of the family to live in following their fathers death. He also said that he worked for his brother James doing repairs on mine at Lugar in 1851. (MURDOCH MESSENGER Edition #3 Page 11 & 12.)

James did not get married until he was 27 years of age. His sisters Janet, Veronica and Mary all preceeded him in marriage. He married Margaret McCall on November 24, 1841 at Leadhills, Dumfrieshire, Scotland. Margaret is said to have been born there also about 1820. We find James and his family in the Scottish Census as follows:

1851 Scottish Census Village of Auchinleck #24 June 27, 1851 Film # 103-651 A-B

Place or Street	Residents	Relation to head	Married Unwed	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
#13	James Murdoch	Head	M	36	Grocer	Ayr., Auchinleck
	Margaret	Wife	M	31		Dumfries, Sanquhar
	James	Son	U	9	Schl	Lenark, Crawford
	Alexander	Son	U	7	"	Ayr., Auchinleck
	John	Son	U	5	"	Ayr., Old Cumnock
	William	Son	U	2	"	Ayr., Auchinleck
	Ann McCall	Sister-in law		22	Muslin Sewer	Lenark, Crawford

Before November 7, 1853 James had moved his family to Glasgow, Lenark, Scotland. This was the date of his son Thomas birth in Glasgow. Here on 26 August 1854 he and Margaret were to experience the death of their six year old William (First). This was only the beginning of sorrow for them as four other sons were also to die soon under the age of 27 years and preceeding James in death as did his wife also. They were parents to nine sons.

David Lennox Murdoch said the following about James: "James married Margaret McCall. They had a large family and lived in Glasgow. I thnk they all must be gone now as I could get no trace of any of them while over there 1905-06-07 altho I even advertised in the paper for them. A son William (Second) came here and lived for a time in Heber City and Park City. He died in this City and was buried in the City Cemetery. ("Writings about Murdoch's")

Margaret McCall is said to have died about 1880 in Scotland and James the 12 September 1884 at 70 years of age in Glasgow, Lenarkshire, Scotland. From the letter printed from James to his nephew David Lennox Murdoch written on December 16, 1978 we sense a loneliness. "I hope you are all in good health and that it is not trouble or want of time that some of you are not minding old Jamie that you have left behind with a bit letter at a time to cheer up his cast down spirits, you don't know how glad I am in a morning when my Laird comes up to my door with a letter in his hand saying its an American." James was now alone except for nieces and nephews from the Smith family and his sons perhaps James, John, William, and George who we do not have death dates for. His mother, only living sisters and brothers and their families had all gone to America.

Perhaps there are some of his descendants today in Scotland from the sons mentioned above we do not know as a family organization. If anyone in the family has more information concerning this family your Family Officers would appreciate knowing of it. James nor none of his sons ever joined the church that his mother, and two sisters and two brothers did, The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints. All Temple work has been done for this family so they will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and accept or reject the truth just as we all will.

### SOURCES

1. James Murdoch Family Records done by David L. Murdoch, Joseph A. Murdoch and Ruby E. Murdoch Hooper
2. Census Records Genealogical Library in Salt City, Utah
3. David Lennox Murdoch's pictures and writings about "Murdochs"